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CIA - Cuba - Bay of Pigs  
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Special Report

## Anti-American

## Propaganda

## Barrages Cubans

Editor's Note: The Cuban people are fed a particular image of the United States by some gifted political propagandists. After a month on Castro's island, correspondent Wallach provides an inside look at the anti-American barrage in this, the seventh of 12 exclusive articles.

By JOHN P. WALLACH

News American Washington Bureau

A machine gunner pops out of the multi-tiered wedding cake at Luci Baines Johnson's nuptials and mows down the White House guests. Nazi firing squads punctuate every clause of Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech with a volley of rifle shots.

A bad dream? Someone's perverse hallucinations? No. They are scenes from "LBJ," a recent "documentary" — directed by one of the world's best cameramen and most powerful political propagandists, Santiago Alvarez. His newsreels are screened in schools, on television and often preceding the main feature in almost every commercial theater in Havana.

"LBJ" alleges that the murders of President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert, as well as the assassination of Martin Luther King were part of a conspiracy somehow involving President Johnson. In a clever pastiche of actual footage, the former chief executive is depicted playing with a rifle at his Texas ranch after newsreels shots of each assassination and funeral procession.

"Hate is a good thing," Alvarez contended in an interview, "because by channeling your emotions you avoid other crimes. I have too much hate in myself, but when you see children burned with napalm with your own eyes, how can anyone be immune to hate?"

When this correspondent sarcastically congratulated Alvarez on his success in conveying hatred, he equipped, "That's wonderful, I'm completely happy that my hate is useful for something." But he denied his films were propaganda warfare.

"When I make a film I make a film. When I shoot a gun, I shoot a gun. If the enemy approaches while I am filming in Vietnam and I am fighting with a gun, I'll abandon the film. That's how I feel."

His upcoming projects include an animated documentary depicting Mickey Mouse being machine-gunned as he disembarks in Vietnam and another ridiculing Tarzan by juxtaposing footage of native Africans dancing with what Alvarez considers racist treatment of Africans in Tarzan films.

He is "demystifying" the heroes (he has already "executed" Superman) who he contends are created to reflect "some mysterious force inside capitalism" that instills fear in people.

The Central Intelligence Agency is one of

favorite targets. In one CIA documentary the film opens with a shot of a woman holding her hands over her breasts -- whatever that signifies.

The film cites the CIA involvement in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and then charges the

CIA was also responsible for the murder last year of Chile's Army commander, Gen. Rene Schenider. Always, the CIA is depicted by a mysterious spider web, rats, or other evil-looking animals.

Cubans are barraged by similar propaganda in other mediums. A recent red-banner headline across the top of Cuba's only official newspaper, Granma, carried the message, "A new record for aerial escalation by the Nixon administration: 30 attacks."

As in every article mentioning him, the name of the President is given a vicious twist, dropping the "x" and replacing it with a Nazi swastika. News programs begin every evening with a special five-minute film allegedly depicting U. S. "warplanes" destroying Vietnam.

Another recent front-page article carried the news of the space astronauts postage stamp exploits, under the headline "The First Moon Swindle." The text began, "The United States has achieved another space goal with exclusive characteristics for the present and the future."

"American astronauts have successfully staged the first smuggle between the Earth and the Moon. Of course, it's not a 'mafia-type' crime. It's much simpler. In the space flights, NASA always sends envelopes with cancelled stamps. After the astronauts return, the U. S. government presents them as gifts to politicians and foreign dignitaries as a form of propaganda and bribe, a very subtle bribe."

The article left the strong impression that instead of coming clean before they were found out, the astronauts only admitted their guilt and returned the remaining envelopes after NASA officials had discovered the truth.

Even cartoons are not exempt. Cuba's answer to "Dennis the Menace" called "Matojo," is depicted in a recent humor magazine firing a toy machine gun outside his living room window. "Pum, pum, pum, pum."

"Don't make so much noise," his mother says.

Jumping up and down with arms outstretched, Matojo shouts, "I shot them down. I shot them down." "What did you shoot down?" his mother asks. "I'm a North Vietnamese guerrilla and I shot down a yankee plane," Matojo responds. The centerfold cutout was a red Vietnamese style hat.

Perhaps the most striking thing about talking to hundreds of Cubans is that despite the heavy dose of propaganda, there is a tremendous reservoir of friendship for the United States.

In part this is due to a Cuban government policy of always distinguishing between the Nixon administration, constantly compared to Hitler, and the "good" American people. One of those who has recently made it in the latter category is Sen. George McGovern, the Demo-

"It is even said that one of the presidential candidates is in favor of lifting the blockade against Cuba," Castro told cheering "26th of July" crowds. But objecting to the Democratic party platform, Castro said, "At the same time it was stipulated that Cuba cannot become a Soviet military base."

We would like to tell those gentlemen, for a starter, that in our territory, we do as we damn please!"

But the sympathy towards McGovern, particularly among young people who privately yearn for a political change, is marked.

A recent newspaper cartoon sympathetically depicted a donkey standing on his hind legs holding a sign that read "donations for the election campaign" and a tin cup, that read "Democrats."

Cubans consider themselves very much a part of the American community of nations despite the fact that they have been kept outside the Organization of American States which voted to impose trade sanctions eight years ago.

A large brightly-lit neon sign in downtown Havana reads, "What is Cuban history if not the history of the Americas?" An American flag is even marched with all Latin American flags during official parades. The last demonstration in front of the barricaded U.S. embassy building, now home for the Swiss consulate was in 1969, after a group of Cuban fishing boats was seized by a Cuban exile group.

The Voice of America radio station is capably jammed but Cubans can receive number of stations in Florida, only 80 miles away, including a Miami station that broadcasts almost exclusively professional U. S. baseball games, Cuba's favorite sport.

Despite the "no compromise" diplomatic postures that both the U.S. and Cuban government have adopted, both sides are quietly beginning to grant visas to some types of visitors. A group of American scientists were permitted in July to attend an oceanographic conference in Cuba and this month two U. S. sugar experts reportedly has granted visas to number of Cuban physicists to visit Washington later this month for an international conference sponsored by the National Academy of Science.

There is even an unconfirmed report that Cuba is building a new hotel at Cienfuegos for the purpose of inviting the children of Cuban exiles in the United States who were 16 or under when they left Cuba to return for a one month, expense paid visit, with guaranteed "safe conduct" back to the United States.

Fidel Castro once said that Cuban youngsters were not responsible for their actions and therefore could return to Cuba to seek the "revolutionary gains." The obvious hope that a few will decide to stay behind.